

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MANJEEV SINGH PURI, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, AT THE ANNUAL HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON THE CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND AT THE 65TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON DECEMBER 14, 2010

Madam Chair,

I would like to thank you for your strong leadership and OCHA for organizing this annual event.

I would also like to thank the Secretary General and you for update on CERF funded relief operations.

We are happy to note that CERF has been effective in mobilizing resources and implementing its mandate. In the short span of five years it has become a valuable and impartial tool for prompt and significant UN humanitarian action

We are also happy to see Fund acquiring a greater profile and role in rapid response to humanitarian emergencies. CERF assistance this year was critical in the international response to the earthquake in Haiti and floods in Pakistan.

There is little doubt that with an increasing number of natural disasters requiring the help of the international community, the role of the Fund will become even more relevant in the coming years.

Madam Chair,

India accords the highest importance to the role of the United Nations in coordinating international emergency humanitarian assistance and of providing support to national authorities in responding to humanitarian emergencies. India also values the multilateral setting, voluntary and impartial nature of such humanitarian assistance adhering to humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law.

India has always been forthcoming in extending assistance to countries affected by humanitarian disasters. India contributed US Dollars Twenty Million to the UN for assistance to Pakistan earlier this year. And, in February, we contributed US Dollars Five Million for the Government of Haiti to meet its immediate needs in the aftermath of the

earthquake. We have also joined Brazil and South Africa as part of our joint IBSA Trust Fund to establish a waste management project in Haiti.

India has made a commitment of contributing US\$1.5 million to CERF over a three-year period from 2009. In accordance with this we had contributed US\$500,000 in 2009 and 2010. I am happy to announce that we will continue with our contribution of US\$500,000 in 2011.

Thank you.

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